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CONGRESSMAN CONCERNED ABOUT REAGAN PHILIPPINES TRIP
BY SUSANNE M. SCHAFER

A House subcommittee chairman said Tuesday he had "grave reservations" about President Reagan's planned trip to the Philippines in the wake of the assassination of opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr.

Rep. Stephen J. Solarz, D-N.Y., chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, said his concerns were based upon reported death threats alleged to have been made against the president to the U.S. Embassy in Manila. He also said he was concerned about the possible political impact the president's visit might have.

Reagan is to visit the Philippines in November as part of an Asian tour. Solarz visited the Philippines several days before Aquino's assassination Aug. 21.

"I would certainly have very grave reservations," because of the alleged death threats, Solarz said.

He spoke with reporters after receiving a closed briefing from the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation on the assassination and after chairing a subcommittee hearing on the matter.

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During the hearing, a State Department official refused to comment publicly on Solarz's repeated questions about a published report by columnist Jack Anderson that the U.S. Embassy in Manila has received several death threats.

John C. Monjo, deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, asked instead if he could submit a classified report on the matter to the subcommittee.

"There have been reports of possible demonstrations, there have been reports of possible activity," Monjo said. "I would like to submit a classified report on this."

"I gather there must have been some (death threats), otherwise I would assume that if there hadn't been, they would have said so," Solarz said after the hearing.

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EXCERPTED